

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to a provisional application. The benefit of priority was claimed in the joint declaration for patent signed by the inventors.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 24, 2002, as evidenced by the initialed Form PTO-1449.

Claims 1-27 are all the claims pending in this application. Attached to this Amendment is Appendix A, which includes a complete set of pending claims and illustrates the marked-up version of the amended specification and claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Birrell *et al.* (USP 6,092,101). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claims 1, 9, 18, and 25 are amended to essentially include the recitation of accepting a user access request at a message access port *to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts*, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a user on a client workstation connects to a proxy server and is presented with an interface module that illustrates an integrated view of all the email accounts available to the user, *regardless of service provider and location* (see the present specification at page 5, line 16 to page 6, line 2). The user may view a list of all pending email messages and mark individual

messages for download or deletion from the interface module *without needing to separately access or address each of the mail servers* (see the present specification at page 6, lines 2-5). In another exemplary embodiment, a proxy server consolidates a message list received from each of the email servers for presentation to the user in a consolidated message list (see the present specification at page 7, lines 4-6). The proxy server transmits to the user a list of all pending email messages retrieved from all of the user's email accounts (see the present specification at page 7, lines 7-9).

In contrast, Birrell et al. discloses a computer implemented method of filtering mail messages in a distributed computer system that includes a plurality of client computers connected to a mail service system via a network (see Birrell et al., the Abstract). Specifically, Birrell et al. is directed to a method of enabling a user to access mail messages stored in *a single email account* using search queries composed of one or more search terms (see Birrell et al., col. 5, lines 48-56). Thus, Birrell et al. is an example of a conventional access method disclosed in the present invention, wherein a user must serially access different mailboxes one at a time (see the present invention at page 5, last paragraph). As a result, Applicants' claimed subject matter is distinguished from Birrell et al., which fails to disclose or suggest accessing selected ones of a *plurality of individual messaging accounts*.

Since Birrell et al. neither discloses nor suggests the invention claimed in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8, or the invention claimed in independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-17, or the invention claimed in independent claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-24, or the invention claimed in independent claim 25 and its dependent claims 26 and

17, these claims clearly are not anticipated by Birrell et al.'s disclosure. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are requested.


Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with filing this Response. In the event that it is determined that fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Respectfully submitted,

Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo, PC

Dated: January 21, 2003

By: 
Sean L. Ingram
Registration No. 48,283
(for James G. Gatto, Reg. No. 32,694)

12010 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 900
Reston, VA 20190
Telephone (703) 464-4800
Facsimile (703) 464-4895

APPENDIX A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title is changed as follows:

SYSTEM AND MESSAGE ~~METHOD~~ FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF
ELECTRONIC MESSAGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 5, last paragraph bridging onto page 6:

With conventional access packages, for each mailbox that a user wishes to enter, they must go through each of these successive states in serial fashion. While doing so, the user must keep track of the identity and address of each of the POP3 email servers to which they need to connect. In the invention, in contrast, and as illustrated in Fig. 56, a user at client workstation 102 connects to and is serviced by proxy server 106 by presentation of interface module 132 on the client workstation 102. The interface module 132 presents an integrated view into all of the users' available email accounts, regardless of service provider or location. The user may, in general, view a list of all pending email messages, and mark individual messages for download or deletion from interface module 132, without needing to separately access or address each of mail servers 114a, 114b...114n. Interface module 132 is in one regard illustrated in Fig. 6.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of managing a plurality of messages ~~hosted on~~ stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts ~~message stores~~ comprising the steps of:
 - a. accepting a user message access request at a message access port to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts; and
 - b. transmitting a set of message ~~corresponding~~ access requests to a corresponding set of the individual messaging accounts ~~associated message stores~~.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - c. accepting a set of replies from the selected individual messaging accounts, ~~associated message stores~~ wherein the set of replies comprises a report of pending messages ~~pending on each of the selected individual messaging accounts~~; and
 - d. creating a consolidated message list, including at least the messages pending in each of the selected individual messaging accounts; and
 - e. transmitting an output of a the consolidated message list as an output.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:
 - ef. accepting a ~~second~~ message process request to perform predetermined functions on the messages presented in the consolidated message list;
 - g. associating the message process request to the corresponding message presented in the consolidated message list; and
 - fh. transmitting the message process request ~~a set of associated process requests to~~

the corresponding set of associated message stores individual messaging accounts.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the message access port comprises a networked proxy server.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the ~~message stores~~ individual messaging accounts have reassignable network addresses.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the POP3 standard is utilized in at least one step.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein the consolidated message list comprises a list of e-mail messages.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein an administrative module~~ further comprising performing predetermined service functions at the message access port ~~performs predetermined service functions~~.

9. (Amended) A system for managing a plurality of messages ~~hosted on~~ stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the ~~system~~ message stores comprising:

a message port adapted to accept ~~an input of a message~~ a user access request, wherein the user access request enables access to selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts; and

a processor unit in communication with the message port, wherein the processor unit accesses ~~the messages~~ stored in selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by communicating with the ~~message stores~~ plurality of individual messaging accounts.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor unit communicates a message access request to each of the ~~message stores~~ individual messaging accounts and generates a to-report pending-of messages that are pending on each of the selected individual messaging accounts.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein the messages comprise electronic mail.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein the message port comprises a networked proxy server.

13. (Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor unit accepts input from the ~~message stores~~ individual messaging accounts and creates a consolidated pending-message list that includes at least the messages pending on each of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

14. (Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the processor unit accepts ~~input to create message process requests that perform predetermined functions on-for~~ the messages presented in on-the pending message list.

15. (Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the message process requests comprise at least one of selecting messages, deleting messages and reading messages.

16. The system of claim 9 wherein the POP3 standard is utilized in at least one communication.

17. (Amended) The system of claim 9, further comprising ~~wherein~~ an administrative module in communication with ~~at the~~ message access port, wherein the administrative module is adapted to perform ~~performs~~ predetermined service functions.

18. (Amended) A system for managing a plurality of messages ~~hosted on~~ stored in a plurality of ~~message store~~ individual messaging accounts, the system ~~means comprising:~~

message port means for accepting a user access request as an input of a message access request ~~to enable access to selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts;~~

processing means for communicating with the message port means, wherein the processing means accesses the messages stored in selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by communicating with the plurality of individual messaging accounts ~~message store means.~~

19. (Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the processing means communicates a message access request to each of the ~~message store means~~ individual messaging accounts and generates a to-report pending-of messages that are pending on each of the selected individual messaging accounts.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the messages comprise electronic email.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein the message port means comprises a networked proxy server.

22. (Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the processing means accepts input from the ~~message store means~~ individual messaging accounts and creates a pending consolidated message list that includes at least the messages pending on each of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

23. (Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the processing means accepts ~~input to create message process requests that perform predetermined functions on~~ for the messages presented in ~~on~~ the pending message list.

24. (Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the message process requests comprise at least one of selecting messages, deleting messages and reading messages.

25. (Amended) A storage medium for storing computer readable code, the computer readable code being executable to manage a plurality of messages ~~hosted on~~ stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts ~~message stores according to the steps of~~

a. accepting an input of a user ~~message~~-access request at a message access port to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts; and

b. transmitting a set of ~~modified~~-message access requests to a corresponding set of ~~associated message stores~~ the individual messaging accounts.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

c. accepting a set of replies from the ~~associated message stores~~ selected individual messaging accounts, wherein the set of replies comprises a report of pending messages; and

d. creating a consolidated message list, including at least the messages pending in each of the selected individual messaging accounts; and

~~de.~~ transmitting an output of a ~~the~~ consolidated message list as an output.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

~~ef.~~ accepting a ~~second input of a~~ message process request;

g. associating the message process request to the corresponding message presented in the consolidated message list; and

~~fh.~~ transmitting the message process request ~~a set of modified process requests to the corresponding set of associated message stores~~ individual messaging accounts.